



PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Emerson, S.U. et al.

Group Art Unit: 1643

Serial No. : 08/840,316

Examiner: Zeman, M.

Filed : April 11, 1997

For : RECOMBINANT PROTEINS OF A PAKISTANI STRAIN OF HEPATITIS
E AND THEIR USE IN DIAGNOSTIC METHODS AND VACCINES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20031

SEP 6 3 1999
GROUP 1800

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

This Amendment is submitted in response to an Office Action dated February 24, 1998, in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 7-9. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

25. A DNA molecule having a sequence consisting of nucleotides which encode a hepatitis E virus open-reading frame 2 protein, said protein having its amino-terminus at amino acid 112 of open-reading frame 2 and its carboxy-terminus at an amino acid in the range of amino acids 578 to 607 of open reading frame 2.